Aestivating Giant African Snail Population in South Andaman During 1973, 1974, and 1975

BY

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Achatina fulica Bowdich, 1882 is a serious land snail pest of a number of vegetables, fruits, plantation crops, and ornamentals. During unfavourable weather conditions they undergo aestivation and on the return of favourable conditions they resume activity. The present work relates to the aestivating snail population. Work on such studies was initiated in 1969 in certain villages of South Andaman and the municipal area of Port Blair. An account of the aestivating giant African snail population during 1973 in 11 villages of South Andaman already has been published (Abbas & Gautam, 1975). The present paper gives a comparative account of the aestivating snail populations in these villages during the summer seasons (January to April) of 1973, 1974 and 1975 (Table 1).

The present studies indicate that the position of 6 villages, namely Makkapahar, Calicut, Brishganj, Garacharma, Pahargaon and Dollyganj remained unchanged during these 3 years, while in the case of the other 5 villages there was a slight change. However, the trend in all the villages in all 3 years was of a decline of aestivating snail populations. At Makkapahar the aestivating snail population throughout these 3 years continued to remain highest, varying from 102.39 to 86.81/m², followed by Calicut, varying from 86.40 to 65.99/m². The villages nearer to the town of Port Blair had comparatively much lower snail populations (*i. e.*, Dolliganj, Nayagaon, Shadipur, Schoolline and Pahargaon); these 5 villages are only about 5 - 8 km from Port Blair, whereas Makkapahar and Calicut which stand I and II, respectively, are about 20 and 14 km distant. A similar trend was observed by Abbas & Gautam in their 1973 studies on the aestivating giant African snail population in these 11 villages. This trend now stands confirmed as a result of 3 years' continuous observations in these 11 villages.

SUMMARY

A comparative study of the aestivating population of the giant African snail in 11 villages of South Andaman was done during 1973, 1974 and 1975.

The highest average population per square metre was found to be 102.39, 98.54 and 86.81 respectively in 1973, 1974 and 1975 whereas the lowest population per square metre in the same years was found to be 20.10, 17.11 and 14.57 respectively.

It was observed that the population declined from year to year in all 11 villages. Villages nearer to Port Blair had the lowest population, whereas those farther away had the highest.

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Literature Cited

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Table 1

Aestivating Giant African Snail Population in South Andamans in 1973, 1974 and 1975

Sl. No.	Locality	Data on aestivating pockets			Average population of snail/m² and position of population			Remarks
		1973	1974	1975	1973	1974	1975	
1.	Schoolline	A. 34 B. 92.64 C. 2429	A. 50 B. 74.13 C. 1682	A. 143 B. 200.10 C. 3672	26.21/VIII	22.68/VIII	18.35/IX	
2.	Pahargaon	A. 68 B. 120.53 C. 3810	A. 67 B. 104.49 C. 2898	A. 226 B. 233.17 C. 6202	31.61/VII	27.73/VII	26.59/VII	Position unchanged
3.	Austinabad	A. 62 B. 106.76 C. 5567	A. 59 B. 54.39 C. 2371	A. 207 B. 268.55 C. 8845	52.14/IV	43.59/III	32.92/IV	
4.	Prothrapur	A. 75 B. 93.76 C. 5044	A. 53 B. 44.61 C. 1877	A. 148 B. 161.80 C. 6115	53.79/III	42.07/IV	37.71/III	
5.	Brischganj	A. 70 B. 99.99 C. 5079	A. 51 B. 42.91 C. 1713	A. 115 B. 115.37 C. 3483	50.79/V	39.92/V	30.19/V	Position unchanged
6.	Garacharama	A. 75 B. 91.53 C. 3163	A. 72 B. 71.46 C. 2143	A. 308 B. 259.28 C. 7289	34.55/VI	29.98/VI	28.11/VI	Position unchanged
7.	Calicut	A. 103 B. 119.97 C. 10366	A. 130 B. 73.49 C. 5818	A. 535 B. 340.23 C. 22452	86.40/II	79.16/II	65.99/II	Position unchanged
8.	Dollyganj	A. 52 B. 73.69 C. 1482	A. 41 B. 40.25 C. 689	A. 64 B. 57.16 C. 833	20.10/XI	17.11/XI	14.57/XI	Position unchanged
9.	Makkapahar	A. 81 B. 99.80 C. 10219	A. 102 B. 58.90 C. 5804	A. 536 B. 438.77 C. 38093	102.39/I	98.54/I	86.81/I	Position unchanged
10.	Shadipur	A. 57 B. 84.93 C. 2129	A. 52 B. 52.90 C. 1156	A. 240 B. 309.52 C. 6134	25.06/X	22.15/IX	19.81/VIII	
11.	Nayagaon	A. 60 B. 85.49 C. 2181	A. 49 B. 50.53 C. 1043	A. 169 B. 160.53 C. 2802	25.61/IX	20.64/X	17.45/X	

A. = Number of aestivating pockets.
B. = Area of aestivating pockets.
C. = Number of aestivating Snails.